

What is claimed is:

1. A prosthetic device for lateral insertion into an intervertebral space, comprising a first component having a first laterally-extending flange for engaging a first vertebra from a lateral approach, the first component having a first articular surface, and a second component having a second laterally-extending flange for engaging a second vertebra from a lateral approach, the second component having a second articular surface for cooperating with the first articular surface to permit articulating motion between the first and second components.
2. The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the first and second vertebrae are in a spondylosed relationship and the first flange is offset relative to the second flange to accommodate insertion into the spondylosed first and second vertebrae.
3. The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the first and second vertebrae are in an aligned relationship and the first flange is aligned with the second flange to accommodate insertion into the aligned first and second vertebrae.
4. The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the first component further comprises a first bearing surface in an opposed relation to the first articular surface, the first bearing surface being adapted to engage the first vertebra.
5. The prosthetic device of claim 4 wherein the first flange extends along a substantial portion of the first bearing surface.
6. The prosthetic device of claim 4 wherein the second component further comprises a second bearing surface in an opposed relation to the second articular surface, the second bearing surface being adapted to engage the second vertebra.
7. The prosthetic device of claim 6 wherein the second flange extends along a substantial portion of the second bearing surface.
8. The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the first and second flanges each comprise at least one hole therethrough.

9. The prosthetic device of claim 6 wherein the first and second bearing surfaces are each coated with a bone-growth promoting substance.
10. The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the first and second flanges are each coated with a bone-growth promoting substance.
11. The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the first and second flanges each comprise a sharp portion for penetrating the first and second vertebrae, respectively.
12. The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the first and second components are formed of a cobalt-chrome-molybdenum metallic alloy.
13. The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the first and second components each comprise at least one notch formed laterally therein for receiving a surgical instrument.
14. The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the first component comprises a projection extending from the first articular surface.
15. The prosthetic device of claim 14 wherein the second component comprises a recess formed in the second articular surface.
16. The prosthetic device of claim 15 wherein the projection is a convex portion and the recess is a concave portion.
17. The prosthetic device of claim 16 wherein the convex portion and the concave portion cooperate to permit articulating motion between the first and second components.
18. A prosthetic device for lateral insertion into an intervertebral space, comprising a first component having a means for laterally engaging a first vertebra during lateral insertion therein, and a second component having a means for laterally engaging a second vertebra during lateral insertion therein, wherein one of the first and second components comprises a projection and the other of the first and second components

comprises a recess, the projection engaging the recess to provide articulating motion between the first and second components.

19. The prosthetic device of claim 18 wherein the first and second means for laterally engaging the first and second vertebrae, respectively, are laterally-extending flanges.

20. The prosthetic device of claim 19 wherein the first laterally-extending flange extends along a substantial portion of a bearing surface of the first component.

21. The prosthetic device of claim 19 wherein the second laterally-extending flange extends along a substantial portion of a bearing surface of the second component.

22. A prosthetic device for insertion into an intervertebral space defined between a pair of spondylosed vertebrae, comprising:

a first component, comprising:

a first flange laterally extending along a first bearing surface; and

a projection extending from a first articular surface; and

a second component adapted to be engaged with the first component, comprising:

a second flange laterally extending along a second bearing surface, the second flange being offset from the first flange upon engagement of the second component with the first component thereby accommodating a spondylosed relationship between a first vertebra and a second vertebra; and

a recess formed in the second articular surface;

wherein the projection and the recess engage one another to provide for articulating motion between the first and second components.

23. A prosthetic component for forming a portion of a prosthetic device, comprising a first surface having a flange for engaging a vertebra from a lateral approach, the flange extending substantially laterally along the first surface, and a second surface in an opposed relation to the first surface, the second surface being adapted to engage another prosthetic component.

24. A method for inserting a prosthetic device into an intervertebral space from a lateral approach, comprising providing a prosthetic device having a first articular component

and a first flange extending laterally along a surface of the first articular component, and a second articular component and a second flange extending laterally along a surface of the second articular component, and laterally inserting the first articular component into a first vertebra and laterally inserting the second articular component into a second vertebra, the second vertebra being adjacent to the first vertebra.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein the first and second flanges engage and penetrate the first and second vertebra, respectively, during insertion.

26. The method of claim 24 wherein the first and second flanges are inserted into preformed openings of the first and second vertebra, respectively, during insertion.

27. A method for laterally inserting a prosthetic device into an intervertebral disc space between a first vertebra and a second vertebra, comprising:

providing a prosthetic device, comprising:

a first articular component, comprising:

a bearing surface and an articular surface;

a substantially laterally-extending keel formed on the bearing surface for engaging the first vertebrae; and

a recess formed in the articular surface;

a second articular component, comprising:

a bearing surface and an articular surface;

a substantially laterally-extending keel formed on the bearing surface for engaging the second vertebrae; and

a projection extending from the articular surface for engaging the recess of the first articular component;

substantially laterally inserting the prosthetic device into the intervertebral disc space to engage the prosthetic device with the first and second vertebrae.